

GRAFFITI OUTBREAK

Vandals tagging Heights

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The wrong kinds of letters have been slapped on mailboxes in Brooklyn Heights recently.

Graffiti is once again rearing its ugly head, appearing mostly on mailboxes, benches and lamp posts.

Martin L. Schneider, a resident of Monroe Place and the chair of the Brooklyn Heights Association's Quality of Life Committee, described the problem as "seasonal" with fluctuating dips and swells of property defacement.

Following a clean streets campaign last spring when residents cleansed mailboxes and lamp posts of the offensive autographs,

there had been a decrease in the amount of local defacement, Schneider said.

Following the last anti-graffiti campaign he added, "[mailboxes] stayed clean for a long time."

"There was a period about a year ago when it seemed to be peaking with every mail box," he said. "Most recently I think there has been an increase — after the decline."

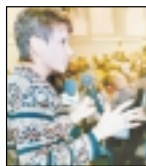
The latest spate seemed to begin a few weeks ago and mailboxes on Clinton Street, Schneider noted, have been the hardest hit.

While graffiti is difficult to track, and perpetrators notoriously hard to locate, Schneider has yet to take the recent rash of See **GRAFFITI** on page 5



Three mailboxes, at the corner of Remsen and Henry streets, are covered with a vandal's graffiti. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

Reps blast Iraq attack



Nydia Velazquez BP / Greg Mango

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Four members of Brooklyn's congressional delegation made public declarations against President George Bush's push to extend America's "war on terror" into Iraq, at a town hall meeting in Park Slope Sunday.

The meeting was held about 24 hours before the president addressed the nation to state his case for disarming Iraq and waging war on that nation if necessary, saying, "confronting

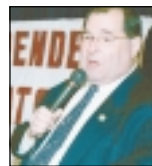
the threat posed by Iraq is crucial to winning the war on terror."

With about 400 people in attendance at MS 51 on Fifth Avenue, between Fourth and Fifth streets, Rep. Nydia Velazquez (Sunset Park, Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Williamsburg and Bushwick), Rep. Jerrold Nadler (Red Hook, Sunset Park, Borough Park, Bensonhurst, Coney Island and Manhattan) and Rep. Major Owens (Park Slope, Fort Greene, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood), gath-

ered to deride a joint congressional resolution being considered by the Senate and House of Representatives authorizing military action against Iraq.

Although he did not attend the meeting, Rep. Ed Towns (Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, Carroll Gardens, Sunset Park) sent a letter supporting his Democratic colleagues' position.

The resolution, which will come up for a vote on Thursday, is expected to pass, but all four pledged to cast their See **ATTACK** on page 5



Jerrold Nadler BP / Greg Mango

Methodist to expand on 7th St.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

New York Methodist Hospital is about to receive 70,000-square-foot of additional homegrown space.

Designed by Carl Kaiserman, a Park Slope resident of 27 years, and one of the champions behind instituting height limits in Park Slope, the new building will fill in an industrial gap currently existing between the hospital's Buckley and Carrington pavilions on Seventh Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

"We have a tremendous need at the hospital for more space," Lyn Hill, a New York Methodist spokeswoman, told the Park Slope Civic Council on Thursday. "We need to expand our neurology department, we are hoping that we will have a cardiac surgery department, we need to expand diagnostic radiology and most of all, we need to provide single-patient rooms."

Hill said the \$19.4 million expansion would not add to the hospital's \$70 beds, but it will give New York Methodist, and its patients, some much-needed elbowroom.

"We're not planning to increase the number of beds in the hospital," Hill said. "But we are planning to increase the number of private rooms currently available to patients, both adult patients and for children. Having private rooms for children will enable an adult parent to easily sleep in the room."

Construction is expected to begin in December and is targeted for completion in the fall of 2005. The new, seven-story, brick-and-concrete addition will replace a three-story service building.

"[It will] be designed in a way that will help blend with the brownstones that it faces," Kaiserman said.

See **METHODIST** on page 4



An artist's rendering of New York Methodist Hospital's planned new wing, as seen from Seventh Street. RKT&B



D'town fests

Performers from the Blackbird Theatre Group (above) scare up some fun during the Montague Street Arts Festival on Saturday in Brooklyn Heights. At right, Water Street in DUMBO is filled with revelers during the Guinness Oyster Fest, where, for 14 hours, they had a chance to down stout and slurp some oysters at the Water Street Bar, St. Ann's Warehouse, the Tobacco Warehouse and Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. Cranberry Street in the Heights was also home to fair on Saturday. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan



Election push for Armory \$

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

If it's true that timing is everything, then supporters of the plan to revamp the Park Slope Armory, converting much of it into recreational and athletic facilities for school children and community use, have about a month left before Election Day to elicit as much funding as they can from Gov. George Pataki and the state Legislature.

And supporters of both the Park Slope armory plan and a similar one in Bedford-Stuyvesant appear ready to put the pressure on down the stretch.

According to one state legislator, the "buzz" in Albany is that the Republican governor, who is facing a challenge from state Comptroller Carl McCall, has \$3 million set aside for one or both of the armory plans.

With their hopes resting on the campaigning governor, the Park Slope Civic Council is mulling the idea of holding a demonstration to urge for the conversion of the 14th Regiment Armory, located on 14th

Street and running from Seventh to Eighth avenues.

"This being an election year, our best shot is to get the attention of the governor, or those in the governor's race," said Bernard Graham, the group's president.

At an Oct. 3 Park Slope Civic Council meeting, Graham discussed the state of the armory proposal.

"There wasn't any concrete proposals or any concrete news in terms of the financing," he said. "There seems to be the opinion that whatever funding was going to become available would be government funding, that there was no real design to go out to the private sector and raise some money."

Plans for the Park Slope Armory, designed by Take the Field Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding public school athletic facilities in New York City, would convert the armory's currently vacant drill floor into a sports facility including a track and basketball, volleyball and tennis courts. The gymnasium portion of the building would be used for community space.

With several hundred public, private and parochial

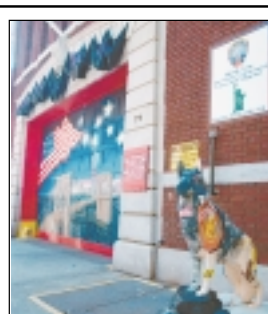
schools within a four-mile radius of the armory, the plan has been embraced and rallied for by the Park Slope community, winning \$500,000 from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Gifford Miller in addition to \$50,000 out of the borough president's Fiscal Year 2003 budget, with another \$500,000 to be included in Markowitz's FY 2004 budget.

A similar project has been presented for the Bedford-Stuyvesant Armory, on Atlantic and Bedford avenues. Although both projects are jockeying for funds, champions for the respective initiatives, Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Bed-Stuy Assemblyman Roger Green, have worked together to build support.

"Now it's starting to show signs of Albany suggesting that they can only do one," Graham said. "Which is not really welcome news because it means one community is being pitted against another."

Take the Field declined to comment, but Green acknowledged the developing fissure between their projects. DeBlasio was not ready to say the is-

See **ARMORY** on page 3



Heroes honor

On Friday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m., firefighters and families of Ladder 118 and Engine 205 on Middagh Street in Brooklyn Heights will hold a memorial Mass in honor of the eight men they lost on Sept. 11. The Mass will be at the Church of the Assumption on Cranberry Street between Hicks and Henry streets and will be open to the public. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

Western Atlantic Av work done



Atlantic Avenue at Smith Street, where a newly paved road meets old-fashioned construction. The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The three-year, \$31.6 million reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue is nearing completion and not a moment too soon.

Roadwork between Hicks and Smith streets, the portion of the avenue running through Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill and into Boerum Hill, was finished this weekend, the city Department of Design and Construction said, and parking was restored on that stretch this week.

Work will continue along Atlantic Avenue from Smith Street to Fourth Avenue over the coming weeks but should be complete by Thanksgiving, in time for the city's holiday embargo, when road construction is discontinued until after the New Year, said a spokesman for the DDCC, the agency that is overseeing the project.

"It had different stages and this one I think was a little rougher for access to businesses, especially from Hicks [Street]

to Boerum [Place]," Sandy Balbara, president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association (AABA) said of the last phase of street reconstruction, which took place over the summer.

"People are starting to smile a little bit now," she added.

In August, the work began to lag behind schedule threatening to further impede business activity along the strip long dubbed "antique row" for its eclectic blend of antique shops, and now enjoying a renaissance of newer, artier, niftier, stationary and clothing boutiques.

Councilman David Yassky took the plight of the merchants to the deputy commissioner of the DDCC for Brooklyn, and was able to get them to finish the western portion of the roadwork a week ahead of schedule.

"They understand how difficult this has been and how much damage has been done to the merchants on Atlantic Avenue," Yassky told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "They've promised to have everything done before Thanksgiving."

See **ATLANTIC** on page 4

The Brooklyn Papers COLLEGE PREVIEW

City U colleges strut their stuff at Kingsborough

College Fair comes to boro Oct. 21

The Brooklyn Papers

From Oct. 17-21, you'll have the opportunity to check out City University of New York (CUNY) colleges in each borough.

The Fair comes to Brooklyn's Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd. in Manhattan Beach, on Monday, Oct. 21, 1 to 4 p.m.

The Big Apple College Fair welcomes prospective college students and their parents to check out the many and varied colleges in the CUNY system. Literature about the schools will be distributed and attendees will be able to speak with admissions personnel and attend informational programs on financial aid, the admission process, career plans, and how to choose the right college.

In addition to Kingsborough, here's the Fair's schedule:

- **Bronx:** Lehman College, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Thursday, Oct. 17, noon-3 p.m.
- **Manhattan:** Pace University, Friday, Oct. 18, noon-3 p.m.
- **Staten Island:** College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Saturday, Oct. 19, 1-4 p.m.
- **Queens:** Queensborough Community College, 222-05 56th Ave., Sunday, Oct. 20, 1-4 p.m.

To get to Kingsborough by public transportation, take the Q train to Brighton Beach, then the B1 bus to the campus gate. By car, take the Belt Parkway to Knap Street and follow the signs to Kingsborough.

Seniors who attend may enter a raffle to win two \$500 scholarships from the New York Lottery at each location.

For more information, call (212) 290-5632 or log on to www.bigspringcollegefair.com. Here are some of the CUNY colleges exhibiting:

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ted to providing its students with a superior education. To achieve that goal, the college offers a multitude of special academic programs, valuable internships, and impressive career opportunities.

Brooklyn College students have historically been identified by the strength of their talent and ambition to succeed, which creates a fertile and invigorating learning environment.

Among recent graduates are author Frank McCourt, playwright Michael Bradford, poet John Yau, and composer Josh "Bo" Bell.

The campus is situated on 26 acres in the Midwood neighborhood, easily accessible by public transportation. Literature about the schools will be distributed and attendees will be able to speak with admissions personnel and attend informational programs on financial aid, the admission process, career plans, and how to choose the right college.

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St. Joseph's has recently partnered with Polytechnic University to provide Brooklyn Campus students with housing for the first time. The dis-

trictive living environment is enriched by a program of student activities and organizations, all designed to further the college's mission of training and supporting tomorrow's leaders.

The college will be holding an Open House and Information Session Sunday, Oct. 27, from noon to 3 p.m. at Brooklyn. For more information, call (718) 636-6868 or visit www.sjcnyc.edu.

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Fraud king caught

By Tom Hays
Associated Press

In his heyday, Quentin "Flint" Hawkins was a prolific producer and director of what he liked to call "movies."

Hawkins, 53, of Brooklyn, staged and fabricated hundreds of car accidents over two decades before his arrest last year, prosecutors said. His personal demolition derby fueled a costly epidemic in auto insurance fraud and set a new standard for what authorities call "runners."

"He was, in a real sense, the king of the runners," Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Alonso said when Hawkins was sentenced last month to five years and four months in prison.

A police officer, Edwin DeLoatch, was convicted Thursday of helping Hawkins orchestrate a two-car accident in exchange for an envelope stuffed with cash. He faces a three-year, seven-month sentence.

DeLoatch was part of a cast of con artists including Hawkins' own children, another crooked cop, a former prosecutor, a lawyer and several phony "victims" recruited from a local bowling alley. A total of 60 were charged last year in what authorities called the biggest staged-accident case in state history.

The case casts light on a personal injury underworld populated by shady personal injury lawyers and physicians who rely on runners like Hawkins to profit from false negligence and no-fault claims, authorities said.

New York insurance officials estimate that no-fault claims from staged accidents amount to tens of millions of dollars each year in the state, and hundreds of millions nationwide. As a result, they say, the state has some of the highest auto insurance rates in the nation.

Similar fraud cases abound nationwide.

In Newark, N.J., 28 people were charged in July with staging fake accidents. A recent crackdown in San Diego resulted in convictions of 51 people, including chiropractors and lawyers.

In April, a law office manager was ordered to pay \$8.7 million in restitution for his role in a fake accident ring run by members of Russian organized crime groups in Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles.

Hawkins began making a living as a runner around 1980 after he learned corrupt medical clinics would pay him up to \$1,500 for each car accident "victim" he referred to them.

At Melody Lanes in Sunset Park, Hawkins stood out from blue-collar regulars.

"Flint Hawkins is the kind of guy who drives a nice big car," said Steven Brownstein, an attorney for DeLoatch. "He wears nice jewelry. He's a big talker."

When Hawkins talked to his fellow bowlers about an easy way to make quick cash, they listened. He paid his recruits \$500 each to be drivers and passengers in cars directed to have deliberate, low-impact collisions, or to simply call police and claim they were the victim of a hit-and-run accident.

Hawkins also bribed one police officer to write fake reports. The officer wrote seven bogus accident reports involving a total of 37 people claiming to have been injured, authorities said.

The reports were needed by the corrupt medical clinics to file for reimbursements — typically between \$5,000 and \$25,000 — under New York's no-fault law. Some phony victims also filed lawsuits demanding up to \$1 million for pain and suffering.

Wiretaps revealed the crew communicated by code. The staged accidents were "movies," cars were "cars," and patients were "pineapples" who needed to go to "fruit stands," or medical clinics.

Hawkins ruled with an iron hand.

"There is only one chief, and I'm the chief," he said in one taped conversation with one of his minions. "And you do it my way."

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CB2 OKs Court St. plan

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Plans by DUMBO developer David Walentas to convert a municipal parking garage at Atlantic Avenue and Court Street into a mixed-use residential and retail building were passed by Community Board 2 Wednesday, although not without concern over how, in concert with other developments, the building will impact the overall traffic problem in Downtown Brooklyn.

While praise for the project remained high, its review did set off some alarms among local residents, which materialized in a recommendation by the board's land use committee that the city Economic Development Corporation (EDC) study the traffic and transportation effects of broader development in Downtown Brooklyn — not isolated to the Walentas plan.

The board tacked on the committee's recommendation in approving the Walentas proposal Wednesday by a vote of 31-0 with three abstentions. "Whereas this particular project may have minimal effects, if we continue to do these projects and assess them in a vacuum who's keeping an eye on the cumulative effect?" Bill Vincombe, the CB2 Land Use chairman, told The



Artist's rendering of Walentas Court-Atlantic plan.

Brooklyn Papers on Friday.

"Our recommendation was that the EDC should do this," Vincombe said.

The Walentas plan calls for a 12-story building, with 20,000 square feet of ground-floor retail, about 600 underground public parking spaces with 250 apartments on the second through 12th floors. A 40,000-square-foot YMCA is also included in the proposal with an entrance on Atlantic Avenue.

The plan had to go through city land use review because it involves the disposition of city-owned property to the developer, Walentas' Two Trees Management, and seeks permission to develop the underground garage.

Other, more massive developments, however, are already underway within CB2 including Atlantic Terminal, a 15-story, 770,000-square-foot retail and commercial complex at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues; 9 Metrotech South, a 19-story, 700,000-square-foot office tower, that will be the last structure to rise within the Metrotech campus; and the development of retail and residential structures over three formerly state-owned lots along the Livingston Corridor.

With the development or conversion of other Downtown Brooklyn properties, CB2 is requesting that an overall traffic and transportation plan for Downtown Brooklyn be studied by the EDC.

"I think [the] EDC wants to do the right thing for Downtown Brooklyn," Vincombe said, adding that what is good for Downtown Brooklyn is good for the city.

Among Vincombe's suggestions was to either appoint a traffic expert to assist CB2 in formulating a plan or tapping a member of the board to serve in that capacity.

Janel Patterson, an EDC spokeswoman, said rezoning initiatives are currently underway and will include more traffic studies for the Downtown area.

In August, Mayor Michael Bloomberg allocated \$750,000 to support a \$1.25 million Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on rezoning outland manufacturing zones, increasing building capacity and create height restrictions on potential residential strips in Downtown Brooklyn.

"We are working on an up-zoning of the area and that would include more traffic studies," Patterson said.

ARMORY...

Continued from page 1
sue had come down to an either/or consideration.

"It's still premature and we've only heard very informal responses," DeBlasio said. "It's clear that both projects are regarded as worthy in the eyes of the leaders in Albany and we're trying to find a way for both."

Hesitant to fracture the unity thus far demonstrated by the coalition of the elected officials one member of the civic council suggested a late-October march beginning at Atlantic and Bedford avenues and leading to the Park Slope Armory.

Pleas for the armory may not fall on deaf ears, however, as Green said there is a "buzz" among Park Slope's personnel that their town is considering an allocation of \$3 million.

"That's been brought back to me from a number of different folks including some people surrounding the governor, although not from the governor himself yet," Green said. "So I'm waiting for the phone call. What I'm hearing is, it's not definite, but there's some possibility of something around \$3 million."

DeBlasio said discussions are ongoing and prospective allocations remain unclear.

The governor's office did not return calls by press time. Each armory proposal, however, would require something in the area of \$14 million to \$15 million in capital construction costs and a \$3 million allocation would not get the armories built, but could provide some valuable start-up funds, although that would be lessened considerably if the money was split between the two projects.

Nevertheless, Green said, "I would hope that even if it's \$3 million that it not go to one particular site but that we try to split it. But that's going to be the governor's call."

In concert with DeBlasio,

Some members of the community expressed concern that surgical development, in concert with the project at the Atlantic-Court garage, would accumulate in the area to present a traffic crisis in Downtown Brooklyn.

"I think it's a terrific project," said Brian Ketchum, a member of CB2's traffic and transportation committee and executive director of Community Consulting Services, which specializes in traffic studies. "But it's time we do a traffic analysis or EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] honestly."

Ketchum challenged traffic figures presented to the community by Two Trees and submitted to the board, saying, "All transportation impacts have been significantly under-reported."

He charged that the analysis was conducted shortly after Sept. 11 while the city still restricted single-occupant vehicles from entering Manhattan and that Two Trees did not include in its data additional developments, such as Atlantic Terminal, which will have a capacity to employ 1,700 people and would be expected to draw thousands of shoppers.

"We have got serious traffic problems in Downtown Brooklyn," Ketchum said. "And we have to deal with them seriously and honestly and not just sweep them under the rug."

"Traffic consultant Philip Habib's analysis was just fine. It was very complete. It was accepted by [the city Department of Transportation]," said Ted Walentas, a spokesman for Two Trees. "It was quite well done."

The Walentas-Habib traffic study does take into account many of the developments in Downtown Brooklyn — including Atlantic Center, 9 Metrotech South; the Brooklyn Law School dormitory being built on the corner of Boerum Place and State Street; the state courthouse being built at 330 Jay St.; and the Post Office and federal courthouse nearing completion on Tillary Street between Adams Street and Cadman Plaza East — although it does not account for residential development greatly adding to the vehicular congestion in the area.

The proposal now goes to the borough president, then the City Planning Commission and then onto the City Council for review.

The Park Slope Civic Council hopes to decide on a rally route and date within the week.

"We're certainly working closely with the civic council to see if some sort of demonstration of support would be good," DeBlasio said.

"I think we want to complete further discussions with the mayor's office and in Albany before we determine our next steps."

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Whoops

Due to a production error, the date printed on the cover of last week's Brooklyn Papers was wrong. The Papers should have been dated Oct. 7.

Davis bill to require shelter notice

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

In response to a rash of homeless shelters landing within Fort Greene and Prospect Heights, Councilman James Davis has introduced legislation aimed at giving communities two months notice of any planned shelters.

Davis introduced the bill in the City Council Wednesday. It would require the city Department of Homeless Services to notify the local community board, the Department of City Planning, the borough president and the appropriate councilman 60 days prior to entering into an agreement with a prospective homeless shelter operator.

Davis announced the proposed legislation a day earlier, at a rally outside of 65 Clermont Ave. at Park Avenue in Fort Greene, which is slated to become a 24-unit transitional homeless shelter. Residents had been told the building

would be developed as 12-units of luxury housing.

"It's deceptive and it deceives the community," Davis said at the Oct. 8 rally. "The developer comes in... deceives the neighborhood and then they switch." Assemblyman Joseph Lento, whose district includes portions of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Williamsburg and Greenpoint, is also in the process of drawing up legislation in response to the 65 Clermont Ave. shelter, which he announced outside the planned facility.

Although details of the bill are still in the works, Lento said the idea would be to "discourage questionable practices of developers who are capitalizing on the need for homeless housing without regard for the community."

"These developers put up a building and get all the tax abatements," Lento said. "And then they say, 'Let's go to the city and see if we can market all this housing,' when that was what you intended to do all along."

Residents claim they were only made aware of the plan after they saw workers unloading bunk beds into the facility.

An ad hoc neighborhood group by the name of "The Fort Greene Action" quickly formed, called Fort Greene Action, and took its case to a Fort Community, and took its case to Lento, Davis and Community Board 2 last month.

The community board passed a resolution calling for prior notice from the city before homeless shelters open within its borders of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights.

According to Virginia Schwartzberg, a member of Fort Greene Action, the neighborhood is overrun with homeless shelters and social service providers.

Schwartzberg has repeatedly stated, however, that the community would gladly accept permanent housing for the homeless but that they oppose the temporary shelter.

"We are not opposed to homeless families in permanent housing on Cler-

mont Avenue," she told CB2 last month. "They would be welcome here."

Currently, Fort Greene Action has taken on the strategy of bombarding the city Department of Buildings with complaints of potential violations about the property's use. The building, which has a wheelchair ramp and that sprinkler heads do not meet the federal standard of being 14 feet apart.

Only moments before the rally, a Buildings Department inspector issued a violation for the bottom step being only 4 inches from the ground on the building's stairwell, while the other four steps are 8 inches high.

Fort Greene Action is also seeking a pro bono attorney while Davis shops around the City Council for co-sponsors.

Davis said the bill would come before the Government Operations Committee, which is headed by Harlem Councilman Bill Perkins.

ATLANTIC...

Continued from page 1

ing and I think we've seen over the last month they have really picked up the pace."

The project began in February 2000, to replace primary and secondary water mains under Atlantic Avenue between Columbia Place and Fourth Avenue and on Clinton Street, from Bush Street to Atlantic Avenue.

Water mains of 36 and 40 inches, and those of 8, 12 and 20 inches, were replaced. For three years, large portions of the avenue were pushed into two lanes of traffic as the roadway was excavated; crossing the street was difficult and parking was nonexistent.

Jennifer Baron, owner of A Cook's Companion and A Finer Setting, two upscale shops on Atlantic Avenue, between Clinton and Henry streets, said she had to step up her personal advertising campaign with more frequent mailings and sales.

"A lot of people on my block and the blocks around are struggling," she said. "And when it comes down to brass tacks, people still want their money."

As merchants hustled to come up with creative solutions to the construction drain, the cost ultimately rested on them, while rents, utilities and expenses remained due, Baron said.

Yassky said he is now urging the city Department of Business Services to assist in an advertising campaign to reacquire shoppers with Atlantic Avenue.

"Over the last three years they've learned, 'Stay away from Atlantic Avenue because you can't park [and] the traffic is mess,'" Yassky said. "It'll take a while to make perception catch up with the new reality."

In the meantime, merchants are looking forward to holiday shopping.

Construction, however, is not entirely foregone for surrounding thoroughfares. Hicks Street, from Atlantic Avenue to the northern end of Heights at Old Fulton Street, is getting new asphalt laid on Oct. 13 and Oct. 14, a Department of Transportation spokesman said. The road, which receives heavy traffic through Brooklyn Heights as an alternate route to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, was milled on Oct. 3 and Oct. 4.

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The Bartone School of Radiography and the School of Radiation Therapy Technology at New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope recently held graduation ceremonies.

During his speech at the ceremony, valedictorian Nelson Duran said, "There is just not enough paper to express our gratitude to everyone involved in the program, from the nurses, instructors, technologists and classmates to their respective families."

Upon graduation from the two year study and clinical apprenticeship program, graduates of the Bartone School of Radiography have learned to create optimal x-rays which are used by physicians to diagnose a variety of conditions.

"Before graduation, all the students have demonstrated that they give patients clear instructions and explanations in a respectful and compassionate manner," said Anthony DeVito, program director of the School.

Wilson Apollito, program director of the School of Radiation Therapy Technology at New York Methodist Hospital, said, "When they look back on

Methodist's new neurosurgeon

New York Methodist Hospital

Neurosurgeon Martin Zonenhyn, MD, has recently joined New York Methodist Hospital.

Dr. Zonenhyn, who specializes in treating pain, peripheral nerve damage, brain tumors, hydrocephalus, head trauma, Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders and conditions of the spine, said that exciting advances in the field include minimally-invasive neurosurgery and effective surgical treatment for pain.

"My work is not just about increasing longevity, it's about improving a patient's quality of life," he said for four years, he returned to full-time work three months later," Dr. Zonenhyn said.

METHODIST...

Continued from page 1

He said the seven-story addition to the New York Methodist building will be at least one story shorter than the adjacent hospital buildings, and will step back at 60 feet so as not to dwarf the adjacent brownstone properties. The structure's hue, he added, will be a slightly lighter tint from the land around that currently colors the hospital.

The new construction will not create any additional entrances or exits other than the existing fire exits, nor will it add any loading docks.

The lower two floors of the building will contain food services, a hospital pharmacy, a medical library and a portion of the emergency department.

The library will be temporarily relocated during the construction to a trailer in one of the parking lots, either on Sixth Street in front of the parking garage between Seventh and Eighth avenues, or in the parking lot on Sixth Street at Eighth Avenue, and the pharmacy will relocate somewhere inside the hospital.

Hill said construction would not cause major disruptions to the hospital's medical services.

The third floor of the new addition will house a pediatric intensive care unit, plexus and teaching areas, and rooms will include accommodations for parents. The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh floors will create at least 120 new rooms, most of which will be private rooms.

The space freed by the addition will be used to expand clinical areas of the cardiology, cancer treatment, ambulatory radiology and neuroscience departments.

Kaiserman, a longtime member of the Park Slope Civic Council, as well as the group Revitalization of the Southern Area of the Slope (ROSA), which merged with the civic council last year, is a principal of the architectural firm, Rothzied, Kaiserman, Thomson & Bee, which designed the new wing.

Other principals of the firm include Bernard Rothzied, a

42-year resident of Park Slope who serves on the New York Methodist board of trustees, and Carmi Bee, a 27-year resident of Park Slope and professor of architecture at the City University of New York.

The firm specializes in historic restoration and was behind the restoration and conversion of the Eagle Warehouse in DUMBO on Old Fulton Street into condos; the addition and interior renovation of the Garfield Temple on Garfield Place and Eighth Avenue; and the interior gut rehabilitation of PS 107, on Eighth Avenue between 14th and 15th streets.

The firm also won the first honor award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1975 for the conversion of Turtle Bay Towers in Midtown Manhattan, from commercial to residential, one of the early adaptive reuse projects in New York City.

Since awards from AIA have been won by RKT&B for the Eagle Warehouse conversion and 459 12th St., which saved a garage built in 1912 from demolition and converted it to residential use.

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Woman slain at Park Slope eatery

By Melissa Nann and Adelle Waldman
for The Brooklyn Papers

A 19-year-old immigrant who worked at a Park Slope restaurant to help support her five younger sisters in Mexico was stabbed to death at work Tuesday afternoon.

Estela Victoria was alone in the Mr. Taco y Burrito restaurant at 446 Dean St., just off Flatbush Avenue, when she was stabbed three times in the back and neck at around 4:15 p.m.

Police say Luis Ortiz, 30, used two knives in the brutal attack.

After allegedly stabbing Victoria, Ortiz ran around the corner to a doctor's office at 196 Flatbush Ave. and rushed to the back. When an office worker noticed him, Ortiz gasped for

breath and said he was having trouble breathing, witnesses said. Minutes later, police, following tips from witnesses to the grisly crime, found Ortiz in an exam room and led him out of the clinic in handcuffs.

The killing was the result of a dispute that broke out when Ortiz entered the shop, police said, noting that there was no connection between the victim and her alleged killer.

After she was stabbed, Victoria managed to stagger outside, where she fell in a heap on the sidewalk in front of the store, witnesses said.

"She was laying there, bleeding profusely," said Baba Pear-Sun, who owns a natural food store next to Mr. Taco. "The blood was coming out of her neck... And her body was jumping up and down."

It was a sad twist of fate

that led Victoria to be alone in the eatery.

Maria Teller, who owns Mr. Taco with her husband, said, "I left the shop in the afternoon to go to the dentist. My husband left for 15 or 20 minutes to go park the car."

Victoria had worked for the Tellers for three years, ever since she moved here from Puebla, Mexico, at the age of 16. She immediately went to work and sent money back to her mother and five sisters.

Her father and sister followed soon after. They all lived in Park Slope, but Victoria was the principal support for the family because her father has been sick with heart trouble.

Mexicans are the third largest immigrant group in Park Slope, after Dominicans and the British, according to the 2000 census.

"She was a good person," said Maria Teller. "When we needed something, she'd say, 'Don't worry about it. I'll do it.' She was very quiet, never talked about her problems. She worried about her family in Mexico. She never left money for herself. We never saw her getting new clothes, nothing."

On Wednesday, Teller had set up a makeshift shrine to Victoria, where candles flickered in front of a photo of the young woman, who had rosy cheeks and black hair that fell below her shoulders. A box invited passersby to contribute money toward the cost of sending her body back to Mexico.

A few blocks away, the family of Victoria's fiancé, Marvin Munoz, congregated at his mother's apartment to make arrangements.

Rose Munoz, his sister, went

to the hospital and identified Victoria's body on Tuesday.

"The way she was killed shouldn't have happened," Rose Munoz said. "She didn't deserve that."

Munoz said that Victoria and her brother lived together and planned to marry next month. The couple planned to save up money by working in New York, but Victoria dreamed that they would eventually return to Mexico and open their own business, she said.

The couple was trying to have a baby, and Victoria may have even been pregnant, she said. "She had told [Marvin] that she had would have a surprise for him sometime in February or March," said Munoz, 21, bouncing her 1-month-old on her knee. Autopsy results were not released at press time.

Munoz was shocked that

something like this could happen in their neighborhood.

"Who would have thought something like this would happen on the corner?" she asked. Merchants on the tiny, tree-lined block also said they were stunned that such a crime could have happened in their neighborhood.

In the four years that Pear-Sun has owned the store next to Mr. Taco, he said he has never had so much as a burglary. His 9-year-old son was in the store with him at the time of the attack, and the boy saw Victoria lying on the sidewalk.

"My son had nightmares," Pear-Sun said. "He had to sleep with me."

Margarita Ramirez, who owns a beauty salon on the same block, said she kept the doors of her store locked Wednesday.

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GRAFFITI...

Continued from page 1

mailbox vandalism to the 84th Precinct and is instead focusing on preventative measures.

"The Heights Association urges everyone to clean graffiti off their own property as soon as they see it because that seems to be the best cure for it," Schneider said.

Not to be overcome by vandals, however, BHA is arming itself with brushes and paint in preparation to hit the streets to wipe out the scrawls once again, though a schedule for the campaign has not been set.

"We hope to lead a campaign to clean the mailboxes, the Post Office has supplied the paint," he said, and added the committee is looking to



An emergency box near the promenade has graffiti painted on it. **TOP** Tom Cullen

gather three or four volunteers.

Residents with complaints of graffiti can call their local precinct or the police department's quality of life hotline at (888) 677-LIFE.

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RAPUNZEL RAPUNZEL

ATTACK...

Continued from page 1

ballot against the initiative.

Reading from a statement issued more than a week ago, Nadler reiterated his position that war should remain a "last resort," and that threats should be met, when possible, in accordance with international law.

"I take the potential threat of nuclear weapons in the hand of a hostile and aggressive group very seriously," he said. "The question before Congress is not whether to protect America, but how best to do so."

Nadler said he would support the use of force only to guarantee the security of United Nations arms inspectors in Iraq.

In reference to a recent ABC "Nightline" broadcast, in which it was openly discussed that victory in Iraq could mean control of its reserves of more than 112 billion barrels of oil, and how that could influence France and Russia's — both of which have vested interests in Iraqi oil — vote in the United Nations, Owens said, "I've never heard of such a blatant discussion of a new colonization."

Owens called on America to "wage peace" by developing relationships in the Middle East with foreign aid and development. Citing "a friendly nation" in Pakistan, Owens said, "They are walking on eggshells in terms of the Islamic extremists or people who may overthrow that government... we should be paying greater attention to that ally, how to build up that ally, take care of that ally."

"We have given Pakistan \$800 million in aid but we're willing to spend, maybe an estimate, \$60 billion just to get the war in Iraq," Owens said. "If we're willing to spend that kind of money for a war against Iraq why don't we increase our aid to Pakistan?" And while Bush cites his belief that Iraq may be bracing to attack the United States with chemical or biological weapons, in addition to building nuclear weapons, Velazquez said she had yet to hear a convincing argument in classified briefings to warrant military action.

"I have not been told or shown that there is an 'imminent threat,'" she said. "It has not been presented yet."

All charged that the timing of the debate was "questionable" with House and crucial Senate seats up for election.

"They want a war," Owens charged, "to guarantee that the House remains in the hands of the Republicans and they can gain

control of the Senate."

Velazquez not only fumed over the resolution itself but the hand of Democrats in its creation.

"Not only is the timing of the debate questionable," she said. "The Democratic leadership is questionable."

The congressional joint resolution to authorize the use of the United States military against Iraq did not display great differences from Bush's proposal to Republican Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, Democratic Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, made two weeks earlier, (said who?). Some language had been added, namely the promise to report to Congress within 48 hours of launching any military action and to report to Congress every 60 days to justify the continued use of military force, but Nadler, Velazquez and Owens deemed the document woefully lacking and vowed to vote against it.

The audience consisted primarily of anti-war activists, who greeted the elected officials with cheers at each statement of derision against Bush and his push for war against Iraq.

There were several cries of "where's Hillary?" or "where's Schumer?", noting the absence of Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Charles Schumer, and a few other cries wondering why Rep. Anthony Weiner was not present.

Weiner (Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, southeastern Brooklyn and Queens) who is losing a great deal of his Park Slope district under redistricting, told The Brooklyn Papers that he was busy campaigning in portions of his potential new district in Queens that night.

He said, however, he would support a substitute resolution circulating in Congress that calls for UN arms inspectors, backed by enough military muscle to give them full access, to be sent into Iraq.

Weiner's support for arms inspectors coincided with some of the ideas expressed by Nadler.

Should the substitute plan fail, however, Weiner said he would support U.S. or coalition military intervention.

"Critics [of the resolution] say it's too broad and that it gives the president the right to strike first, which some people are fundamentally opposed to," Weiner said. "I am not. The idea of preemption should not be foreign to us since all of us would acknowledge that a preemptive strike on Osama Bin Laden would have been far preferable to reacting to his attack."

The forum was organized by three political clubs: Independent Neighborhood Democrats; Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats and Lambda Independent Democrats.

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REAL ESTATE

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Preserving our heritage

OUT IN SANTA FE, where I visited last month, a sign on a city building proclaims, "A people with no past has no future." Preservation, of course, is the key to the past, as I've written before. Now that we're beyond our days of flush prosperity, I wonder if preservation is affordable any more.

We seem to be at a crossroads, for signs point in both directions. Across the Brooklyn Bridge, the magnificent Tweed Courthouse has been painstakingly restored to a magnificent splendor. Of course, that was when we had a surplus of dollars and anything the mayor wanted was accomplished. Now, that same symbol of

largess from a political boss has been reduced to a series of bureaucratic cubicles called the Department of Education and restricted to public access.

We here in Brooklyn have broader visions. Preservation is important to us. It is our heritage and it all started with the Pieter Claess Wyckoff House on Clarendon Road east in East Flatbush. The Wyckoff family — it's a large one spread out over many states — owned spellings — donated the family farm to New York City, making it the first landmarked historic home in the city and state.

In spring, "TV Guide" featured a story about the house in an article headlined "The Amazing Rack 'lost boys'."

The first weekend in October marked a new phase in the development of the homestead as a key educational resource when the Wyckoff House Museum celebrated its 25th anniversary. With a fundraising drive primed by its director, Sean Sawyer, and family members who still support the house's preservation, the homestead has moved toward its goal as a functional institution for Brooklyn with a new master plan in place. Working in coordination with the city Parks Department, the site will be reconstructed to imitate a Dutch farm, including an examination of the Afro-Dutch culture.

To raise funds and interest in the projects, several events took place the first week of October: a reception at the New York Yacht Club, a forum at Brooklyn College, a boat ride and awards dinner and a Saturday afternoon of chocolate making, which climaxed the board of directors' efforts to make the Wyckoff Homestead a more relevant part of our lives.

This is a blend of public and private interests, for the Parks Department manages the Historic House Trust. The Lefferts Homestead in Prospect Park has long been an important educational outlet for children to learn more about colonial farm life. Now that the Lost House in Marine Park has been added to the roster, has received a state grant and has new blood in its board of directors, another opportunity is opening.

The catch is that the education of budget money for the Parks Department. The Wyckoff family is exceptional, as well as generous, and Sean Sawyer is an inventive manager. At one time, Brooklyn was known as a rustic suburb with nothing but farmhouses and Victorian mansions. Then the apartment houses arrived and the farmhouses burned or were demolished. Of course, the Brooklyn Museum of Art owns one — the Jan Martens Schenck House — but that's just for show, not living in. And it costs money for preservation, as well as forest and planning.

On one Coney Island's boardwalk, Child's, an early fast food restaurant chain, built a new but imaginative outlet in 1923 to replace one they had on Surf Avenue and West 12th Street. It featured reasonably priced meals, rooftop dancing and an ocean breeze. In recent years, it has served as a dance factory and now is up for sale, complete with original architectural designs and facade. Should it be landmarked? Yes, but the owner, who has preserved many of the exterior motifs, feels that the designation will hamper the sale.

Too much of Coney's history has been destroyed from wealth, fire and careless demolition. In recent years, we've seen Stuck's, the Half Moon Hotel and the Thimbleberg go up in demolition dust. Child's should not be added to this necropolis.

Not only are landmarks threatened but also historic districts. Vinegar Hill, one of our most recent historic districts, was depleted of much of its architectural school because its value was recognized by then city manager Ken Fisher. An important Catholic church was demolished, factories and truck parking lots replaced classic houses, but the city Landmarks Preservation Commission saw the remaining streets and buildings as a valuable remnant of life on the Brooklyn waterfront.

One aspect that stood out were the sidewalks, some lined with bluestone, and the streets of Belgian blocks or cobblestones. Most are disappearing, a result of expediency when streets are repaired or construction begun. Bluestone is expensive but Parks could afford to use it on Brooklyn Heights promenade. Asphalt is easier, though. Some MTA/MTA have their unique streets. In Brooklyn Heights, only Jerusalem Street between Hicks and Furman still has Belgian blocks.

While the cobblestone streets may make for a rougher car ride, trucks shouldn't have a problem. The problem, of course, is the city and its priorities. In Santa Fe, official buildings are still constructed with authentic adobe blocks because they care. Do we?

Which brings to mind another historic anomaly — the coal chute. Anybody remember coal? In the brownstone districts, coal needed to be delivered in front through a coal chute in the sidewalk. Just like manhole covers but smaller, strange names and design logos decorated these lifts. They can still be found in brownstone neighborhoods on Willow Street and other smaller streets, but are fast disappearing for varying reasons.

First, no coal. Second, construction. When a building is re-modeled or reconstructed, the coal chute goes. Third, the city. The local tax collector saw these chutes as a way to collect property taxes for they were found in the city sidewalks, and therefore the property owner was renting space from the city. It didn't matter that the chute was useless and no longer in use. It was the principle.

So, while city government and private enterprise are working closely on some and many issues, in tough times, in our expediency, the history of our city gets pushed under the municipal carpet along with the rest of our glorious past.

John Manbeck was Brooklyn's historian from 1993-2001.

LETTERS Care for the 'lost boys'

To the editor:

Reading about the problems at the Atlantic Transitional Center group home ("Thuggery," The Brooklyn Papers, Sept. 30) reminded me of another group home for boys, in California, that I heard of last year from one of its "graduates."

The rules are strict, but there are few barbies because the punishment is reform school, not a preference!

The youths attend classes and exercises on site. They do housekeeping chores for pocket money, and may attend outside activities with an escort. Lock-down is 8 p.m. and they do not roam the streets at night. Psychologists and social workers are on the job all the time. Most

of the teens go home, after one or two years, in better shape than when they came. Some go on to study at the public high schools or colleges. Isn't this a better system than in Brooklyn?

Don't we care about "lost boys"? I think we do! And if they don't have families, we all have to be their family.

Marilyn Porter

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 8th day of October, 2002, bearing the Index Number N00875/2002, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, Kings County, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: 1. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 2. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 3. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 4. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 5. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 6. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 7. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 8. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 9. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 10. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 11. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 12. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 13. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 14. Assume the name of Maria Rosale Santoro; 15. 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What to say when there is a death in the family

Q: "How do you explain to a 6-year-old the concept of death?"

My son's paternal grandmother died 18 months ago, and I'd like to talk to him about it now that he's older.
—a mother from Staten Island

A: At about age 6, a child can begin to understand that death is final and means the body no longer works. But learning about death shouldn't start and stop at any set age. At best, it lasts a lifetime.

"When we tell children honestly about death, it becomes another fact in their life," says Karen Nilsen, who has helped children from ages 2 to 19 prepare for funerals of loved ones. "Be as honest and as simple as you can be."

Just as kids appear to start to grasp that death means the body no longer functions, Nilsen has found, they pop up with questions like, "Is my grandma's back still broken in heaven?"

No matter what child's age, start where he is — what's on his mind? Any explanation of death varies with each child and should build on his life's experiences, grief experts say.

"Children understand a lot more than we give them credit for," says Marilyn Nicol, a volunteer coordinator at Comfort Zone Camp, a bereavement camp for kids.

After Nicol's husband died the day before her teen-age daughter's eighth birthday, her gut feeling was not to let the girl see her father's body. But she gave her daughter the choice.

"We had a private viewing, and it helped her put her father's death into her brain and heart in a way that she could understand," Nicol says.

If you have to backtrack months after a family death, the journey is even tougher for you and your child.

Heartfelt connections and guidance from adults about how to grieve are really what kids are looking for and need — not complex explanations about death, says grief therapist Jean Skrinco.

"Even though the person dies, the relationship doesn't," she says.

Trying to close the gap between life and death, Skrinco says, children typically want to know: "Where's grandma now? What's she doing? Who's she with?" It's important to turn the questions back to the child and ask: "What do you think?"

Skrinco has found in her work with grieving children that they long for concrete ways to connect with a deceased loved one — such as through pictures and stories.

One 5-year-old boy thought of his deceased father as sitting on his shoulder, telling him what to do. "It helped him to have that concrete connection, even though it was magical thinking," Skrinco says.

Even if your child isn't asking questions or doesn't appear to be grieving, it's vital to find out what's on his mind and clear up misconceptions.

What does your child already know, where has he been misled by characters springing back to life on television or euphemisms such as "We've lost grandma," and what does he want to know? Let his answers be your guide.

Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flieger



for where to go from there, suggests Nilsen, who holds classes at her family's funeral home near Minneapolis. Her website www.thestarcass.com.

Another mother says in her case, she blamed herself for her grandmother's death. "Because the cancer was in her stomach region, I thought I had caused it because I jumped on her lap every time I went to her house," she recalls.

Preferably, baby steps in preschool — even a dead bug — help a child begin to un-

derstand what death means.

One example Nilsen uses in her classes is a flower: "I pick one live geranium with bright petals. Then I pull out a dead geranium, and show that it doesn't look, feel or smell the same."

When kids are allowed to ask questions and given an outlet for their feelings, she says, even preschoolers can get to the heart of the matter: "Dear Grandma, I wish you weren't dead."

A resource to help children understand death: Compassion Books in Burnsville, N.C. For information, go to www.compassionbooks.com or call (828) 675-5909.

Can you help?

My granddaughters are age 2 and a girl age 4, are driving my daughter crazy. The girl plays the dodging game of running away when her mother calls her, and screaming is the only way the boy communicates. They also fight constantly. How can my daughter regain control? — a grandmother

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INSIDE

DINING

PAGE GO 3

Review of Rug-B's Caribbean cuisine

THEATER

PAGE GO 4

'Fantasticks' hits all the marks

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2

Beyond reason

Fiona Shaw gives an extraordinary performance as an ordinary 'Medea'

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Euripides, who lived in the fourth century B.C., is considered the most modern of the Greek tragic playwrights. He is admired for his biting social criticism, profound psychological insights and the humanity of his characters. Even though she is a barbarian and a witch who kills a whole slew of people including her own sons, his "Medea" is an extremely human, sometimes likeable woman.

In the Abbey Theatre's production, on stage at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater until Oct. 12 as part of their Next Wave Festival, "Medea" seems just like your next-door neighbor, an interpretation that comes mostly from director Deborah Warner and her starring actress Fiona Shaw.

Warner and Shaw have previously collaborated on seven projects, including "Electra" in 1988, a cross-gender version of Shakespeare's "Richard III" (with Shaw as the king) in 1995, and a one-woman performance of T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland" in 1996.

The two women have also achieved considerable success apart: Shaw played Harry Potter's awful Aunt Petunia in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," and Warner has directed several operas in England, such as "Wozzeck," "Don Giovanni" and "Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher," as well as several performance installations.

But it is Warner and Shaw's work together that seems particularly fruitful.



Love on the rocks: Shaw with Jonathan Cake as Jason, her husband, who has taken the king's daughter as his second wife. *Stephanie Berger*

THEATER

"Medea" plays through Oct. 12 at 7:30 pm, with an additional 2 pm matinee on Oct. 12, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St.). Tickets are \$25, \$45 and \$65. For tickets, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org on the Web.

Using Kenneth McLeish and Frederic Raphael's translation, and Tom Pye's minimalist set, which transforms ancient Corinth into a white-brick backyard with glass doors and walls behind a shallow pool, Warner has turned Euripides' classic tale of passion, pride and revenge into a modern story of passion, pride and revenge.

'One day to make all three cold meat: father, daughter — and that man I hate.'

— Medea

Even before Medea appears in all her anguish, the soliloquies stayed in their places, and prices never became princesses?

Traditionalists can now take heart; in Odyssey Theatre Ensemble's "Antony and Cleopatra," now playing at the Brooklyn Lyceum in Park Slope, the girls are girls, the guys are guys, and everyone wears a skirt ... sort of. In other words, this production leaves Shakespeare's play much as we imagine it must have been in Elizabethan times.

Director Rachel Macklin's production is more than adequate but less than inspired. There's romance, treachery and plenty of dead bodies littering the stage when the lights go out. But there's not much to start hearts pounding or keep eyes riveted.

In some 42 scenes that alternate between Rome, and Egypt and its environs, Shakespeare relates how Antony squanders an empire for the love of a woman.

When the play opens, Antony (Gilberto Ron) is living a life of sensual pleasure in Cleopatra's court. This enviable state of affairs is brought to an end when messengers bring Antony the news that his wife has died suddenly and Italy has been attacked by the renegade Sextus Pompeius (John Manze).

In Rome, Antony learns that Octavius Caesar (John Phillips) has been angered by Antony's extended stay in Egypt and his refusal to give Caesar arms when he asked for them. The dispute is patched up when Antony agrees to marry Octavius' sister, Octavia (Erin Kate Howard). But before long, Antony is back in Egypt and in Cleopatra's arms. The disagreement flares again — this time with weapons, not words.

Fortunately, the Lyceum has a large enough stage to encompass both Rome and Egypt, and Macklin keeps royalty and retainers coming and going so briskly and fluidly that the play seems to glide rather than jump from scene to scene.

There's an imaginative use of the two staircases on either side of the stage leading up to a balcony, in which the staircases become galleys ships and the balcony the scene of battle. But for the most part, details of the setting are left to the audience's imagination.

Costume designer Fang-Yi Tseng has dressed the actors in what every novice recognizes as Roman togas — short tunics and sandals of a vague military nature. Only Octavius seems a little under-attired, lacking royal robes and headgear.

In fact, Phillips could have used a scepter, a crown, anything to confirm his imperial stature. Too often he looks and acts more like the captain of a baseball team than the ruler of an empire.

Ron is a solid Antony, but his love scenes with Cleopatra lack

See **ANTONY** on page GO 2



'Mommy Dearest': Fiona Shaw as Medea in a scene from the Abbey Theatre's production of "Medea" at the BAM Harvey Theater. *Stephanie Berger*

troduced to civilization. But he is also a man who grieves deeply.

He accomplishes the difficult task of making the vain, ambitious, adulterous Greek sympathetic.

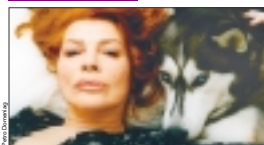
But the real strength in this production is not the bursts of passion, the splashes of blood and the bloodcurdling screams — although there's plenty of that too — but in the very ordinariness of characters to whom we can all relate.

Who knows what turns a loving mother

into a murderer? Warner's interpretation minimizes the role of the gods. There is no divine intervention in the end, and the gods play a marginal role in the characters' motivation.

Warner and Shaw seem to be telling a modern audience that has witnessed countless murders and calls for revenge a troubling truth: None of us is very far from the passions that provoked Medea. She wears our clothes and our face. She lives next door to us.

CINEMA



Strange love

Warning: These films are not recommended for pregnant women, lonely people, happy people, pet lovers, suicidal viewers, or those opposed to nudity or violence.

The first New York retrospective of ultra provocative films by Austrian director Ulrich Seidl opens Oct. 17 with "Dog Days (Hundstage)," which received the Grand Jury Prize at the 2001 Venice Film Festival. (Seidl will participate in a Q&A following the 6:20 pm screening.) Seidl peppers the brutality and meanness of his characters in "Dog Days" with lovely moments — all the more sweet because of his misery hand in inserting them in the film.

His utterly disturbing 1995 documentary "Animal Love (Tierische Liebe)" (above), about painfully lonely humans and their unusually intense relationships with their pets, will be shown Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm. If I could attend the Q&A following that screening, I would ask him where in hell — because they are apparently still very much in hell — he found these interview subjects? "Animal Love" is an unrelentingly difficult, slow-paced film that depicts all animals as being more noble and redeeming than any human master.

While Seidl's films are a must-see for the brand-new, distinct perspective they bring to cinema, they are also sadistic, joyless — at times deaiphany — rumination on the incorrigible human condition. They left me desperately craving the guilty pleasure of a happy Hollywood ending. If this subject matter is the future of cinema, I'm going on anti-depressants.

"The Next Director: Ulrich Seidl" opens Oct. 17 and runs through Oct. 20 at BAMcinematek (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place). Admission is \$9, \$6 for students and seniors. For a complete schedule of films, go to www.bam.org or call (718) 636-4100. — Lisa J. Curtis

THEATER

Missing heat

Lyceum staging of 'Cleopatra' is faithful, but lacks passion

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Remember the days when Shakespeare was Shakespeare, the soliloquies stayed in their places, and prices never became princesses?

Traditionalists can now take heart; in Odyssey Theatre Ensemble's "Antony and Cleopatra," now playing at the Brooklyn Lyceum in Park Slope, the girls are girls, the guys are guys, and everyone wears a skirt ... sort of. In other words, this production leaves Shakespeare's play much as we imagine it must have been in Elizabethan times.

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See **ANTONY** on page GO 2

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Leaps and bounds

Medgar Evers College held its second annual gala awards dinner Oct. 3 at the New York Marriott Brooklyn on Adams Street Downtown. The event raised \$200,000 for the college's scholarship endowment, according to Fred Price, assistant dean for development and public affairs at the college.

Medgar Evers President Edison Jackson and Gov. George Pataki announced that the state would provide \$61 million for the college's planned, state-of-the-art \$138 million academic facility (1). Construction is anticipated to begin in 2004 on the new 178,000-square-foot building on Crown

Street at Bedford Avenue.

The building will house the college's School of Science, Health and Technology, including laboratories, offices and research facilities for faculty and students as well as classrooms, computer labs, a multipurpose dining facility and the college's radio and TV studios.

Currently, the main buildings of Medgar Evers are located at 1650 Bedford Ave. and at 1150 Carroll St.

The black-tie event, "Reach for the Stars," was emceed by Emmy-award-winning Maurice D'Amico (2), a WNBC-TV NewsChannel 4 anchor, and was attended by (3) WBA Heavyweight Champ John Ruiz (left). The event honored boxing promoter Don King, AOL Time Warner Foundation Vice President Geri Warren-Merrick and city Controller William Thompson. Singer-actor Harry Belafonte was also honored, but did not attend because of a scheduling conflict.

The event was also attended by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, City Councilman James Davis, Brooklyn Children's Museum President Carol Ensel, Prospect Park Administrator Turner Thomas, state Sen. Carl Andrews and Assemblyman Clarence Norman, chairman of the Kings County Democratic Committee.

A performance by the Medgar Evers College Imani Singers and Dancers (4) was a highlight of the evening. For more information about enrolling in or supporting Medgar Evers College, call (718) 270-6000.

— Lisa J. Curtis



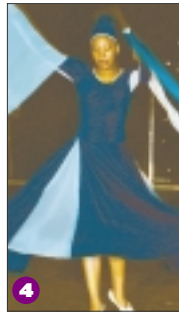
2 Maurice D'Amico emceeds the event.



3 John Ruiz is honored at the event.



4 The Imani Singers and Dancers perform.



4 The Imani Singers and Dancers perform.



4 The Imani Singers and Dancers perform.

Friendly advice: (Right) Gilberto Ron as Antony and Bob Harbaum as Enobarbus, his friend, in "Antony and Cleopatra," directed by Rachel Macklin.

The Brooklyn Papers • Greg Mangia

ANTONY...

Continued from page G 1

The two most textured performances are given by Stacey Mandeville as Cleopatra and Bob Harbaum as Antony's friend, Enobarbus.

Mandeville is flirtatious, witty and capable of a certain nobility. The scene in which she questions the messenger about Octavia's looks is high comedy and a high point in the play.

Harbaum is sly, sensitive and sometimes drunk. It is he who predicts the tragic ending. In many ways his death is felt more deeply than Antony's, despite the fact that Antony's goes on for so long.

Macklin has produced an almost flawless Shakespearean tragedy. Technically the play is of a very high quality, and a fine testament to the stated goal of Odyssey Theatre Ensemble's founders, Macklin and Rich Warren: "... to create a company where actors, directors, designers and technicians would work in

close collaboration to build each production from the ground up."

The actors all present rounded characters they understand well. The tone never jars, and the action is never out of step. But something is missing. That something may be found in Macklin's own words.

In the director's notes, she writes, "... the characters are delightfully human. We see their weaknesses as well as their strengths."

It's hard to argue with this interpretation of the play. One can only wish Macklin had in-

THEATER

"Antony and Cleopatra" plays through Oct. 27, Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., at the Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave., at President Street) in Park Slope. Tickets are \$15. For tickets, call (718) 666-GOWANUS or visit www.brooklynlyceum.com on the Web.

spired her actors to create more human and layered portrayals on stage, to make each role personal and unique.

Perhaps Macklin and her cast have been just a little too kind to Shakespeare. Those directors who move speeches and scenes and settings may have a point after all.

WHERE TO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS, OCT 10

PEDIATRIC NUTRITION: Eastern Athletic hosts a talk on feeding your child, 6:30 to 8 p.m. 43 Clark St. (718) 625-0500. Free.

BOOK COURT: Beatrice Colin, author of "Disappearing Act," reads from her book, 7 p.m. 163 Court St. (718) 875-3677. Free.

MARKETING WORKSHOP: Park Slope Food Co-op hosts an interactive workshop for freelancers, professionals and small business owners. Learn how to attract your ideal target customer, 6:30 p.m. 762 Union St. (718) 622-0560. Free.

KLEZMER WORKSHOP: Seven-week series, \$245, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Congregation Beth El, 274 Carroll Place. (718) 768-3814.

BARNES AND NOBLE: presents Kenji Jagger reading from his book "Dakota Grand," 7:30 p.m. 143 Seventh Ave. (718) 763-3075. Also, Katie Ropke, author of "Still She Waits Me," reads from her book, 7:30 p.m. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4518. Free.

BROWNSTONE BOOKS: presents author Eiji Huxford in a reading from his book "Hacker's Cracker," 7:30 p.m. 409 Lewis Ave. (718) 253-7328. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Chamber music program of works by Richard Strauss, 5:35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

DINNER THEATER: "The Last Supper," 7 p.m. See Sat.

RIAN REP: "The Brooklyn Revue,"

the best of Brooklyn's composers and lyricists, \$24, \$20 seniors and students, 5 and 8 p.m. Harry Warren Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4803.

AQUARIUM SOCIETY: Brooklyn Aquarium Society hosts a fish auction, \$5 for non-members, 7:30 p.m. NY Aquarium, Surf Avenue and West Eighth Street. (718) 837-4455.

TWO BOOTS: music with the Bangs Bump. No cover, 10 p.m. 514 Second Ave. (718) 499-3253.

RISING GATE: presents The Urban Cowboy Jambores, \$10, 8 p.m. 186 Fifth Ave. (718) 622-5072.

HISPANIC FEST: St. Francis College hosts a concert with George Lamond, \$5, 8 p.m. 180 Remsen St. (718) 499-5272.

SHAKESPEARE: Odyssey Theatre Ensemble performs "Antony and Cleopatra," 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music, "The Next Wave of Song," 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

IMPACT THEATER: "The Philadelphia Story," 8 p.m. See Sat.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "The Fantasticks," 8 p.m. See Sat.

GALAPAGOS: presents Golem, a klezmer rock band. Call for time and ticket information, 70 North 3rd Ave. (718) 763-5188.

NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD DRIVE: conducted by The Salvation Army Bay Ridge Corps. Bring in non-perishable food items to help stock the pantry of needy families. 8 am to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 252 86th St. (718) 238-2971.

Sat, Oct 12

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
FALL FOLIAGE WALK: Salt Marsh Nature Center takes a walk in McCarmen Park, 1 p.m. Meet at Bedford Avenue and Lorimer Street. (718) 421-2121. Free.

BROGUE WALK: Big Ocean Tours takes a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. Learn about history, architecture and people

of this neighborhood, \$12, \$10 students and seniors, 1 p.m. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1090.

COLUMBUS PARADE: Annual event takes place along 18th Avenue, from 60th Street to 84th Street, 1 p.m. (718) 297-2828.

PERFORMANCES
DINNER THEATER: David and Wine Productions presents "The Last Supper," dinner theater for 12 people in the playwright's kitchen. Suggestion is \$25 to \$40 per person, 7 p.m. Reservations necessary, 410 16th St. (718) 499-7758.

BARGE MUSIC: Chamber music program of works by Liszt, Chopin and Chausson, \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

RYAN REP: presents "The Brooklyn Revue," the best of Brooklyn's composers and lyricists, \$24, \$20 seniors and students, 5 and 8 p.m. Harry Warren Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4803.

SHAKESPEARE: Odyssey Theatre Ensemble performs "Antony and Cleopatra," 5:15, 7:30 p.m. Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 666-GOWANUS.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The Next Wave of Song," a program featuring contemporary songwriters, \$45, \$35, \$20 seniors and students, 5:30, 7:30 p.m. Opera House, 203 Lafayette Ave. (718) 626-4111.

IMPACT THEATER: presents romantic comedy "The Philadelphia Story," \$15, 8 p.m. 190 Union St. (718) 990-7163.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: presents the musical "The Fantasticks," \$15, \$12 seniors and children, 8 p.m. 26 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.

A CAPPELLA CONCERT: with Vocal Discovers, \$7, 8 p.m. Meru Arts, 203 Columbia St. (718) 852-7400.

TWO BOOTS: blues with Gene

Amateur. No cover, 10 p.m. 514 Second Ave. (718) 499-3253.

SWAMP KING: Another installment of the 10-minute play tournament, \$12, 10 p.m. Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 666-4816.

SOUTH PAW: presents music with The Lyla, Palmer and Capital Vans, 125 Fifth Ave. Call for time and tickets, (718) 230-0226.

BOWIE: Singer David Bowie to perform, \$75, 8 p.m. St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. (212) 307-7171.

CHILDREN
PUPPETWORKS: Fall presentation of "The Sleeping Beauty," \$6, \$7 adults, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. 338 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-3391.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: "Treasures," leads a tour. Kids are invited to learn the importance of harvest for cul-

tures around the world, \$4, 10 to 4 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

AUDITION: Dancemove, Inc. invites boys and girls ages 11-18 to audition, 3 to 5 p.m. Berkeley Carroll School, 181 Lincoln Place. (718) 232-4496.

OTHER
CONFERENCE: Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation offers a morning of information on coping and caring, \$20 at the door (includes breakfast), 9 am to noon. Sunrise Assisted Living, 5905 Strickland Ave. (866) 789-5453.

Flea Market: at Salvation Army Bay Ridge, 9:30 am to 2:30 p.m. 254 86th St. (718) 238-2991.

SENIOR MEETINGS: at AARP Orlinque Center for Older Adults, 6935 Fourth Ave. (718) 748-

735-4400.

Philly tale

The Impact Theatre Company presents Philip Barry's humorous play "The Philadelphia Story," directed by Ron Parrella, Oct. 10-12 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 13 at 3 p.m.

The production features (left) Karla Zinnell as Dianah Lord and Stacy O'Rear as Tracy Lord, the role made famous by Katherine Hepburn in George Cukor's 1940 film.

Tickets are \$15. For reservations, call (718) 390-7163. The Impact Theatre is located at 190 Underhill Ave. between Sterling Place and St. Johns Place in Prospect Heights.

Amateur. No cover, 10 p.m. 514 Second Ave. (718) 499-3253.

SWAMP KING: Another installment of the 10-minute play tournament, \$12, 10 p.m. Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 666-4816.

SOUTH PAW: presents music with The Lyla, Palmer and Capital Vans, 125 Fifth Ave. Call for time and tickets, (718) 230-0226.

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Flea Market: at Salvation Army Bay Ridge, 9:30 am to 2:30 p.m. 254 86th St

Turn up the heat

Rug-B's Caribbean cuisine needs to kick it up a notch

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

A new cafe has opened in Flatbush giving residents a much-needed break in a neighborhood abundant with salons bearing Z-heavy names like "Cutz 'N Curlyz" and "Nailz R U," but with limited dining choices.

Rug-B, a Caribbean-inspired cafe, opened in August on Cortelyou Road. Co-owner Paul Simeon, who has created menus for restaurants such as Manhattan's Negrité and Local, and until recently manned the stove at Madiba, a South African restaurant in Fort Greene, designed the cuisine, which he describes as "upscale peasant. A fusion of Caribbean, Thai and continental."

Simeon, with partner Phil Dazis, rooms the room, stopping at each table to chat, or on a Saturday evening, join in an impromptu sing-along with the lone musician and his hand-in-a-box setup.

Simeon and Dazis made over the former salon space, removing barber chairs and wall-to-wall mirrors. Their transformation has yielded a comfortable, unpretentious cafe. In place of the salon mirrors are sunny, yellow walls that are used as an exhibition space of sorts for the work of local artists. Comfortable tables and chairs seat 40. Large, plant-hung windows in front fill the room with light, and on warm days, the windows open onto small, outdoor tables.

The dishes at Rug-B are evolving. "We're still working on things. Still seeing what pleases our neighbors," said Simeon. The neighbors, tired of trips into nearby areas for a decent meal, want a cafe to call their own, and are willing to overlook this

promising eatery's wobbly beginning. While some of the dishes I tried had all the complexity one would expect from this cuisine, others seemed timid. Until the liquor license is established (it's expected by winter), patrons are happy to down refreshing glasses of mango juice or curry in their own wine.

There are four appetizers offered each evening. Salmon cakes topped with a tangy, dill mayonnaise, although tasty, seemed made of canned salmon and much like the kind of amateurish thing I throw together in my own kitchen.

The other two appetizers I tried suffered from a problem that was consistent throughout the meal: a heavy hand with sugar. Big, beer-battered shrimp, tender with a crisp, almost tempura-like coating, were doused in a candy-sweet mango citrus puree better suited to a dish of vanilla ice cream.

A chili-and-lemongrass dressing on the corn and avocado salad — while a touch too sweet — made for a pleasant topping on fresh greens, crisp corn kernels and slices of ripe avocado. However, crisp Chinese noodles that topped the salad, were one ingredient too many.

There is a compelling entree on the menu. Take the lid off an earthenware bowl, and the perfume of coconut milk and lemongrass warms your face. Inside that rustic bowl (its lid is used for shells) is the mixed seafood "run-down," a Thai-like seafood stew, heady with ginger, curry and thyme. The stew's thin, coconut milk broth, with its layers of spices, holds a generous fillet of buttery, silken salmon. When touched with a fork, the fish fell into moist wedges — each piece having absorbed the flavor



Rug-B player: Waiter Alice Hayes (at left) at work in the new restaurant at 1310 Cortelyou Road. Rug-B's mixed seafood "run-down" (above) is a perfect mix of mussels, shrimp, spiny lobster, salmon, sweet potato, Caribbean spinach, coconut milk, curry, ginger, lemongrass and basil. The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

There are two desserts offered each evening: a banana bread pudding and an ice cream "trilogy" with guava curd, I love bread pudding — especially when it's gently warmed in the oven. Rug-B's dense, damp rectangle studded with banana seemed promising. Heating the pudding to 1,000 degrees in the microwave was a mistake; serving the pudding with a sticky, sweet, mango caramel sauce was death-by-sugar.

I feared that the trilogy of ice creams would be another odyssey down Too-Sweet Lane so I passed on it. More desserts will be added to the menu in the near future: "konkies," an African sweet potato and cornmeal pudding, will be served with vanilla ice cream and caramel-guava sauce.

Rug-B has the makings of a fine cafe. It has a chef that can concoct a dream like that seafood "run-down," and partners who know how to charm their clientele. The future of this cafe will be ensured once Simeon turns up the heat and keeps his spoon out of the sugar bowl.

The neighborhood is counting on it.

DINING

Rug-B (1310 Cortelyou Road between Rugby and Argyle roads) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Entrees: \$8-\$15. For reservations, call (718) 284-0024.

BROOKLYN Eats



THE BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS BROOKLYN'S BEST FOODS & BEVERAGES

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**Monday, October 21, 2002
6:30-8:30 PM
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Advance tickets: \$50 general admission 6:30PM
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limited availability

Ticket Sales 718-875-1000, ext. 108 or, www.iBrooklyn.com

RESTAURANTS

Akwaaba Café	Effie's Kitchen	Mo-Bay Restaurant
Archives Restaurant	Elio	Naturally Delicious
Aunt Suzie's	Footprints Café	Ocean Palace
Bierkraft	Gage & Tollner	Ozno's Dish
Blue Ribbon	Grappa Café	Panino'teca 275
Brawla Caribbean Café	Harvest	Patois
Brooklyn Grill	Henry's End	Relish
The Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory	Hope & Anchor	Rice
Café Petite Crevette	Isobel	Shakoor's Sweet Tooth
Café Scaramouche	Junior's	Smith St. Kitchen
Cake Man Raven	Kino Restaurant	Southern Sweets
Charles, Sally & Charles	Liberty Heights Tap Room	Steve's Mom
Clemente's Maryland Crabhouse	Loulou Restaurant	Sweet Melissa Pâtisserie
Cocotte	Lundy Bros. Restaurant	Tavern on Dean
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BROOKLYN EATS is produced by the Brooklyn Alliance, a non-profit, economic development affiliate of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. The event is presented in cooperation with the Brooklyn Delegation to the New York City Council, with special thanks to Clifford Miller, Speaker of the New York City Council. Additional support is provided by the New York City Department of Business Services, Commissioner Robert W. Walsh.

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Vocal Music on Jewish Themes

Sunday, October 20, 2002 at 3PM

Almuth Herbst, mezzo-soprano
Marien van Niekerken, piano

Poemes Juifs Darius Milhaud
Aus den jüdischen Volksdichtung, op. 79 Dmitri Shostakovich
Mejake, main Sahn Maurice Ravel
Deus Milledei Hebraicus
Solo cantate for mezzo-soprano Viktor Ullmann
From: 4 Lieder, op. 2 Paul Klenck
Rickert Lieder (selection) Gustav Mahler
Des Knaben Wunderhorn (selection)

Tickets: \$15, 6 for \$70

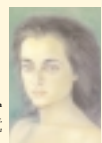
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WHERE TO GO...

Continued from page C2...

of Boss Tweed and others. \$10. 1 p.m. Meet at 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. (833) 549-4891. **SCANDINAVIAN FEST:** Sixth annual event co-hosted by Nordic Delicacies and the Scandinavian East Coast Museum. Rides, vendors, food, petting zoo and replica Viking ship. Noon to 6 p.m. 66th Street and South Avenue. (718) 748-0603.

PERFORMANCES

GOSPEL BRUNCH: BAM hosts David Bratton and Spirit of Praise as part of "Sounds of Praise." \$20 tickets. 10 a.m. 66th Street and South Avenue. (718) 636-4100.

BARBEMUSIC: Chamber music works by Liszt, Chopin and Chausson. \$35. 4 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083. **JAZZ:** Porgessione Natalie Cushman performs. 4 p.m. Free will offering. St. Luke's Evangelical Church. 259 Washington Ave. (718) 622-5612.

SHAKESPEARE: Odyssey Theater Ensemble performs "Antony and Cleopatra." 3 p.m. See Sat.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "The Fantasticks." 3 p.m. See Sat. **IMPACT THEATER:** "The Philadelphia Story." 8 p.m. See Sat.

CHILDREN

MUSIC FOR TODDLERS: Music and movement classes for new-borns, preschoolers and the adults who love them. 2 p.m. Mother Cabrini Park. President Street at Van Brunt Street. (718) 625-7734. Free. **PUPPETWORKS:** Fall presentation of "The Sleeping Beauty." 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. See Sat.

OTHER

LITTLE MISS NORWEGIAN: Girls between the ages of 7 and 12 of Norwegian descent may enter. 10 a.m. to noon. 64th Street and South Avenue. Call for fees. (718) 854-9511.

DANCE WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts a six-week workshop "Introduction to Anatomy for Dancers." Learn how anatomical structures function in dance. \$180. Noon to 3 p.m. 401 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

RUG SALE: St. Mary's Church Hall. Noon to 6 p.m. 81st Street and Ridge Boulevard. (718) 745-8481.

SALE: Reformed Protestant Dutch Church hosts its Fall rummage sale. 12:30 to 2 p.m. Flatbush and Church avenues. (718) 384-5140.

READING: Wordsmiths series at Helicon Cafe presents "Theophrastus' Characters." 1 p.m. 227 Smith St. (718) 260-7531.

MONEY TALK: Brotherhood Temple Beth Ahavah Shalom offers a talk "How to Win... Even When the Market Tanks." 9:15 a.m. Bay Parkway and Benson Avenue. (718) 372-0933. Free.

PENNY SOCIAL: at St. John the Evangelist Church. 12:30 p.m. 259 21st Street. (718) 768-7551.

READING SERIES: Skull Shortwave Frequency presents Joe Wenderoth reads his work. 2 p.m. 71 Broadway St. (718) 899-5872. Free.

LITERARY READING: Soul Thought Magazine hosts a reading. 6 to 8 p.m. Fall Cafe. 307 Smith St. (718) 832-2310. Free.

PET VACCINATIONS: ASPCA Cares Mobile Animal Vaccination Clinic comes to Red Hook. Call for time, place and appointment. (212) 876-7700. ext. 4303. Free.

BAND: Musical performance by Coptic Light. 5:30 p.m. Above the Right Bank. 407 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

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THURS, OCT 17

DAY TRIP: Brooklyn Public Library hosts a trip "Herbivore's Garden." Visit Harriet Beecher Stowe's Mark Twain House as well as Wadsworth.

DIABETES TALK: Health Plus offers a talk on how to control diabetes. 7 a.m. Lutheran Medical Center. 150 35th St. (718) 491-7483. Free.

LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Public Library, New Utrecht branch, offers a musical performance. A Treasure of Neapolitan songs. 3 p.m. 143 86th St. (718) 230-2100. Free.

JAZZ CONCERT: Bass player Gerald Carson performs with long island College students. 4 p.m. Long Island College. DeKalb Avenue and Fulton. (718) 488-1051. Free.

AGING PARENT TALK: Heights and Inglewood Community Council offers "You and Your Aging Parent" series. Today: "The Insurance Maze." 6:30 to 8 p.m. 160 Montague St. (718) 596-8789. Free.

SHAPE UP: Union Center for Women offers a tanning class. Weekly, through Dec. 3. 7 p.m. Call for fee and registration information. (718) 748-7708.

TANGO: Federation of Italian American Organizations ballroom dance lessons to teens and adults. 7 to 9 p.m. Beacon Community Center at Seth Low St. 56, 99 Avenue P. (718) 259-2858. Free.

CRIC STUDIO: presents American art by Mac Wellman and workshops of short story. 7 to 9 p.m. 350 5th Ave. (718) 655-1882. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Author A. Memara. 7:30 p.m. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-9066. Free.

Weds, Oct 16

HEALTH FAIR: Eastern Athletic Club offers a talk "Hormonal Menopause through Nutrition Intervention." 6:30 to 8 p.m. 43 Clark St. (718) 625-0202. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Author Michael Reade reads from his book "Going Public." 7:30 p.m. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-9066. Free.

BAM DRAGUE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents composer Steve Reich and video artist Beryl Korot in a discussion about their current collaboration. 58. 300 4th Ave. (718) 636-4111.

LECTURE: Museum of Modern Art offers a talk "Preventing Child Abuse." Parents and caregivers are invited to attend. 7 p.m. Neighborhood Courtyard Center. 7701 13th Ave. Call to register. (718) 748-1234. Free.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Ballet Preljocaj. 7:30 p.m. Also, "Three Tales." \$20. 7:30 p.m. Harney Theater. 645, by Steve Reich and Beryl Korot. \$45. \$25. 7:30 p.m. Opera House. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4111.

BARNEMATEK: "Tina Silents: G.V. Palaz." Live piano accompaniment. \$9. 7:30 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4129.

MEDITATION: Learn Sahajayana. 7:30 p.m. 322A Court St. (718) 832-5751. Free.

BROWNSTONE BOOKS: hosts a book club meeting. Discussion of "The Red Tent," by Anita Diamant. 7:30 p.m. 409 Lewis Ave. (718) 953-7328. Free.

MEETING: Bay Ridge Historical Society presents Laurel Wapner Ford, a Walt Whitman re-enactor. He will talk about the author's works. 7:45 p.m. Shore Hill Towers, 9000 Shore Road. (718) 745-5938. Free.

BAR BELOW: party "Rise Like Sushi." Music with guest DJ's. 209 Smith St. Call: (347) 678-6558.

ITALIAN GROUP: Practice speaking Italian. Weekly meetings. Call: (718) 625-0765.

Forever young

The Heights Players tap into the timeless appeal of 'The Fantasticks'

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

What makes a legend? In show business — 17,162 performances at the same theater.

"The Fantasticks," which opened May 3, 1960 at the off-Broadway Sullivan Street Playhouse and closed last Jan. 13, survived lockdowns, an actors' strike, two New York City blockouts, a building collapse next door and eight U.S. presidents to become the longest running musical in the world and the longest running show in America. It's also the show most frequently revived in regional, community and amateur theater groups.

"The Fantasticks" opened in Brooklyn Heights at the Heights Players theater on Oct. 31, and continues through Oct. 30.

What's it got? For one thing, a timeless theme. Based loosely on Edmond Rostand's 1894 play "Les Romanesques," "The Fantasticks" tells the age-old tale of young, innocent love, disillusionment at the hands of the cruel world and the return home — sadder, wiser and ready for a more mature, deeper love.

"The Fantasticks" also has clever lyrics and several memorable songs — most notably the haunting "Try To Remember" and a few ("Soon It's Gonna Rain" and "I Can See It") that the very young Barbara Streisand made her own.

Although all this is reason enough for audiences to take "The Fantasticks" to heart, it doesn't fully explain the musical's popularity among directors. For that, one has to look at the minimal demands "The Fantasticks" places on cast and crew.

The stage is a wooden platform. The curtain is a sheet suspended from two hooks. The scenery is a cardboard moon. "The Fantasticks" does not demand powerful voices with a wide range as do Gilbert and Sullivan operettas or even shows like

"Les Misérables." Nor does it call for serious acting, as in more weighty musicals like "Man of La Mancha."

True to its roots — a stage at Barnard College — this touching story of a boy, a girl, two fathers and a wall needs only a group of theater-lovers willing to give the show all their heart. This it has found in the Heights Players.

The production is directed by Steve Velardi and stars Alca Vorrilas as Luisa, the Girl; Tony Monteneri as Matt, the Boy; and Jory Levine, who makes magic as El Gallo, the Narrator. Thomas N. Tyler takes the role of Belloomy, the Girl's Father; and Helen Fein, an inspired choice on Velardi's part, plays Hucklebuck, the Boy's Father. (We can now add cross-

breathed roles.) The original "Fantasticks" featured Jerry Orbach (from television's "Law and Order") as El Gallo. Over the years, many well-known entertainers appeared in "The Fantasticks" — onstage, on TV (1964) and on film (2000) — including Elliot Gould, Liza Minnelli, Richard Chamberlain, Glenn Close, Joel Grey and Bert Lahr.

Several Brooklynites have been involved with the play, from Lore Note, who first saw the play at Barnard and commissioned Tony Jones (both lyrics) and Harvey Schmidt (music) to expand the one-act piece into a full-length musical, to Heights Players regulars.

The late Rick Dann, musical director for numerous Heights Players productions, was "The Fantasticks" pianist for over seven years. Heights Players actor Bobby (Oliver) Rodriguez appeared as Mortimer for 10 years as the play's ringer for a ringer, which he does with the help of Mortimer and Henry, so Matt can heroically come to Luisa's rescue.

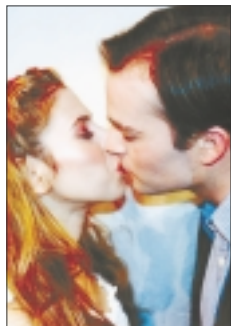
Alas, when the young lovers discover their father's plot, their love fades and they separate — she to amorous adventures with El Gallo, he to seek fame and fortune. While their fathers complain about the perils of raising children, Matt and Luisa suffer the slings and arrows of life, and eventually return to each others' somewhat bruised arms and

Ed Healy as Henry, the Old Actor, and Jane Vauken, as Mortimer, the Man Who Dies, are a team that might make vaudeville worth bringing back. Although these roles are ancillary to the main plot, their antics supply the musical with most of its humor.

Jennifer Weisenberg as the Mute (wall) manages to wordlessly hold her own. For anyone young or unfortunate enough to have seen the play, "The Fantasticks" is about two fathers who live next door to each other and connive to have their overly romantic children fall in love by pretending to feud so they can frown on their children's attachment and their children can have something to rebel against.

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It's a set-up: Alca Vorrilas as Luisa, the Girl, and Tony Monteneri as Matt, the Boy, in a scene from the Heights Players' production of "The Fantasticks."

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